

REP. TOM CAMPBELL • 2ND DISTRICT

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF GRAHAM, SPANAWAY, PARKLAND, ROY, MCKENNA, EATONVILLE,
ORTING, PUYALLUP’S SOUTH HILL, FORT LEWIS, YELM AND RAINIER

Dear friends,

I can’t overstate the importance of the state’s new transportation investment package to the families and employers in the 2nd Legislative District. My position on the House Transportation Committee allowed me to focus new attention on our area’s transportation needs as we developed the transportation package. As a result, we are at last seeing funding for important safety and congestion-relief projects, led by the long-awaited Cross-Base Highway.

Please take a few minutes to look through this report and learn about the upcoming road projects that will benefit you. I’ve also included the latest information about the Cross-Base Highway, also known as State Route 704.

Please remember that my top priority is maintaining the quality of life for the people of the 2nd District. It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your representative. I’m always happy to hear from you and ready to help.

Sincerely,



Rep. Tom Campbell

WORK FOR YOU!
GOVERNMENT
MAKING
TAXES AND
CONTROLLING

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2003
TRANSPORTATION
UPDATE

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Joint Select Committee on
Military & Veteran’s Affairs

2003 TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

CROSS - BASE HIGHWAY –
THE ROAD TO OUR FUTURE

The progress being made on the Cross-Base Highway is remarkable. It was just last year that I secured a place for the highway in the House of Representatives’ transportation funding proposal. This year, building on that momentum, I succeeded in getting \$15 million for the Cross-Base Highway included in the new House transportation investment package. In addition, the official paperwork that has to be done for road projects is well under way. It’s wonderful to see a map of the highway and realize just what a benefit it will be for the people of the 2nd District!

The Cross-Base Highway will be four lanes wide and 5.9 miles long. The west end will connect to Interstate 5 at the Thorne Lane interchange. The east end will connect to State Route 7, the Mountain Highway, via 176th Street South in Spanaway.

The final Environmental Impact Statement was available for public comment until earlier this month. The next step – and what I expect will be the final step in the environmental analysis – is expected to come in **early 2004**. The agencies involved will publish their “Record of Decision.” It will respond to comments received on the final EIS, describe the selected route for the highway (there are three different road alignments being considered at the Interstate 5 end) and cover the actions that will be taken to address environmental concerns.

Here are more details about the Cross-Base Highway, from the Environmental Impact Statement:

- Access would be provided from the highway to three signalized intersections (two in American Lake Gardens and one at Spanaway Loop Road Southerly extension) and an interchange at “A” Street (roughly midway along the project) would provide access to McChord AFB and Fort Lewis.
- The existing Thorne Lane interchange would be relocated 300 feet southwest and reconstructed to accommodate

additional traffic, pass over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad tracks southwest of I-5, and connect to a new single-lane south-bound connector road southwest of the BNSF railroad tracks between Gravelly Lake Drive and Thorne Lane (Gravelly-Thorne Connector).

- The intersection of 176th Street S and SR 7 would be enlarged with additional lanes for turning.
- On Fort Lewis, a new over-crossing of the BNSF tracks would be constructed. Lincoln Road (on Fort Lewis) would be realigned to connect with the new “A” Street interchange, and a new military access road between Fort Lewis and McChord AFB would be constructed under the new over crossing and east of the BNSF right-of-way that passes through this area.

The Cross-Base Highway would provide a necessary link in the regional transportation system by connecting existing and future residential areas in mid-Pierce County and north Thurston County with two of the largest planned employment sites in Pierce County—Frederickson and DuPont.

The proposed roadway would reduce projected traffic volumes and congestion, particularly during peak periods on existing roadways such as SR 7, SR 512, SR 507, and Spanaway Loop Road S. All of these roads are projected to operate at, near, or above capacity in 2025 if additional east-west capacity is not added.

The Pierce County Comprehensive Plan assumes that an arterial link between the mid-Pierce County area and the cities of Lakewood and DuPont will be built; therefore, construction of the Cross-Base Highway is a top priority.

More information about the project may be found in the EIS, available online (<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/services/transpo/Crossbasetable.htm>).

